

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

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R 221435Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL IBADAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1693

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVI , OGEN

SUBJECT: NIV ISSUANCE PROCESS

RED: STATE 021246

1. IN COMPLIANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS STATED REFTEL (SECTION F.), WE WISH TO DESCRIBE BRIEFLY NIV PROCEDURES PRACTICED THIS POST IN PAST YEAR AND EXPLAIN WHY REGA SOURCES IN TERMS OF MANPOWER ARE INADEQUATE TO MEET PRESENT DEMANDS.

2. (SECTION C - OPERATIONS) EIGHT MONTHS AGO, WE INTRODUCED PROCEDURES WHEREBY POST REMAINED OPEN FOR NIV APPLICATIONS ONLY FOUR DAYS PER WEEK. TWO MONTHS AGO, WE REDUCED OPEN HOURS FOR NIV'S TO THREE DAYS PER WEEK IN EFFORT TO STAY ON TOP OF NECESSARY CORRESPONDENCE AND FILING. WITH ONLY ONE CONSULAR OFFICER AND ONE CONSULAR ASSISTANT (FSL) FACING INCREASING WORKLOAD DUE TO RISE IN MALA FIDE APPLICATIONS, WE FOUND SUCH PROCEDURE CONDUCIVE TO MORE EFFICIENT PROCESSING OF NIV APPLICATIONS, WHICH INCLUDES NECESSARY INVESTIGATIVE WORK. THIS PROCEDURE HAS NOT RESULTED IN ANY BACKLOG OF NIV APPLICATIONS.

3. IN ATTEMPT TO MINIMIZE CONGESTION, WE HAVE INITIATED STAGGER SYSTEM FOR F-1/F-2 APPLICANTS (THE MOST NUMEROUS

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OF ALL NIVS AT THIS POST). THESE APPLICANTS ARE FIRST

INTERVIEWED BY CONSULAR ASSISTANT TO DETERMINE IF DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET, THEN SCHEDULED THE NEXT WORKING DAY TO BE INTERVIEWED BY THE CONSULAR OFFICER. ALL OTHER NIV APPLICANTS ARE SCHEDULED TO SEE THE CONSULAR OFFICER ON A "FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE" BASIS.

4. (SECTION D - WORKLOADS AND STAFFING) NIV BACKLOG AS DEFINED REFTEL DOES NOT EXIST AT THIS POST, BUT BACKLOG DEFINED IN TERMS OF TIMELY PREPARATION OF INVESTIGATIVE CORRESPONDENCE AND FILING DOES. AS RESULT, WE HAVE FOUND IT NECESSARY TO PERFORM LARGE AMOUNT OF UNCOMPENSATED OVERTIME IN ORDER TO PROCESS APPLICATIONS IN COMPLIANCE WITH PRESENT NIV LAWS AND REGULATIONS. WE DO NOT HAVE RECOURSE TO MANPOWER OF OTHER SECTIONS AT POST DURING PEAK PERIODS BECAUSE WE ARE ONLY THREE OFFICER POST. REPRESENTATIONAL/SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF OTHER TWO, PRINCIPAL OFFICER AND ECON/COML OFFICER, WOULD SUFFER IN SUCH EVENT. WE HAVE NOT, HOWEVER, FULLY EXPLORED POSSIBILITIES EMPLOYING RESIDENT AMERICANS DURING PEAK SEASONS, AND THIS WE WILL NOW DO. DESPITE SUCH POSSIBILITIES, FACT REMAINS THAT WE ARE MANPOWER SHORT EVEN IN NON-PEAK SEASON FOR DAILY, ON-GOING INVESTIGATIVE WORK AND FILING. TO MEET THIS DEFICIENCY, WE HAVE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED ON LAST TWO CONSULAR SERVICES REPORTS THAT DEPARTMENT GRANT US ADDITIONAL FSL POSITION FOR FY-1975. AS DEPARTMENT HAS LONG RECOGNIZED, IT IS CONTINUITY FSL PROVIDES THAT IS INVALUABLE TO SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF POST AND ESPECIALLY AT SMALL ONE WHERE, OF NECESSITY, AN FSL POSITION IS MULTI-FUNCTIONAL. IN THIS SITUATION, TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT CAN BE MORE DISRUPTIVE THAN HELPFUL.

5. (SECTION E - POST RESPONSIBILITIES) AS CONSTITUENT POST, WE HAVE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, BROUGHT NIV ISSUANCE PROCEDURES IN LINE WITH THOSE OF AMEMBASSY LAGOS. ATTRACTIVENESS OF WORK SPACE AND PUBLIC AREAS HAVE BEEN IMPROVED OVER PAST YEAR WITHIN SCOPE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS. AT THIS TIME, WE DO NOT PERCEIVE NEED FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA, BUT RATHER FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS SHOULD THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

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6. (SECTION F - EVALUATION) OUR INTERIM EVALUATION, AFTER HAVING IMPLEMENTED GUIDELINES PROVIDED REFTEL THAT ARE RELEVANT TO THIS POST, IS THAT WE NEED ADDITIONAL FSL POSITION TO HELP PROCESS NIVS AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS OF LAW AND REGULATIONS AND WITH MINIMUM INCONVENIENCE TO APPLICANT.

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